

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 and 10 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image and audio processing apparatus comprising:
 - an input unit configured to input image data and audio data corresponding thereto;
 - an image encoding unit configured to encode the image data;
 - a first audio encoding unit configured to encode the audio data by an audio encoding method for encoding general audio data;
 - a second audio encoding unit configured to encode the audio data by another audio encoding method which is suitable for encoding speech data;
 - an image encoding setting unit configured to set the encoding in said image encoding unit to encode the image data so that a partial region in each of frame images included in the image data is encoded with a high image quality;
 - an audio encoding setting unit configured to set ~~an execution of the encoding in said second audio encoding unit in a case that said image encoding setting unit effects the setting of the encoding~~ operation of said first audio encoding unit and said second audio encoding unit so that (a) said first audio encoding unit operates to encode the audio data irrespectively of whether said image encoding setting unit effects the setting of encoding, and (b) said second audio encoding unit operates to encode the audio data correspondingly to a time period during which said image encoding unit encodes, with the high quality, the partial region in each of the frame images in accordance with the setting by said image encoding setting unit, so that each of said first audio encoding unit and said second audio encoding unit encodes the audio data during the time period; and
 - a data integration unit configured to integrate encoded audio data encoded by said first audio encoding unit with encoded image data encoded by said image encoding unit in

a case that said image encoding setting unit does not effect the setting of the encoding, and to integrate, with the encoded image data encoded by said image encoding unit, a selected one of (a) the encoded audio data encoded by said first audio encoding unit and (b) the encoded audio data encoded by said second audio encoding unit, in a case that said image encoding setting unit effects the setting of the encoding, thereby outputting the integrated encoded data.

2 - 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image encoding setting unit makes the setting so as to encode a region, with the high image quality, including an arbitrary object in the image data.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said image encoding setting unit makes ROI setting of the region including the arbitrary object, and wherein said image encoding unit executes ROI encoding.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image encoding setting unit makes the setting so as to encode the partial region of the image data with the high image quality in accordance with a user's instruction for designating an object displayed on a display screen.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said image encoding setting unit makes the ROI setting in accordance with the user's instruction, and wherein said image encoding unit executes the ROI encoding.

10. (Currently Amended) An image and audio processing method comprising:

- an input step of inputting image data and audio data corresponding thereto;
- an image encoding step of encoding the image data;
- a first audio encoding step of encoding audio data by an audio encoding method for encoding general audio data;
- a second audio data encoding step of encoding the audio data by another audio encoding method which is suitable for encoding speech data;
- an image encoding setting step of setting the encoding in said image encoding step to control an image quality of encoded image data in accordance with a partial region in each of frame images included in the image data;
- an audio encoding setting step of setting ~~an execution of the encoding in said second audio encoding step in a case that said image encoding setting step effects the setting of the encoding~~ execution of said first audio encoding step and said second audio encoding step so that (a) said first audio encoding step is executed to encode the audio data irrespectively of whether said image encoding setting step effects the setting of encoding, and (b) said second audio encoding step is executed to encode the audio data correspondingly to a time period during which said image encoding step encodes, with the high quality, the partial region in each of the frame images in accordance with the setting by said image encoding setting step, so that each of said first audio encoding step and said second audio encoding step encodes the audio data during the time period;
- a data integration step of integrating encoded audio data encoded in said first audio encoding step with encoded image data encoded in said image encoding step in a case that said image encoding setting step does not effect the setting of the encoding, and of integrating, with the encoded image data encoded in said image data encoding step, a selected one of (a) the encoded audio encoded in said first audio encoding step and (b) the encoded audio data encoded in said second audio encoding step, in a case that said image

encoding setting step effects the setting of the encoding, thereby outputting the integrated encoded data.

11 - 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein said image encoding setting step includes setting so as to encode a region, with the high image quality including an arbitrary object in the image data.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein said image encoding setting step includes making ROI setting of the region including the arbitrary object, and

wherein said image encoding step includes executing ROI encoding.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein said image encoding setting step includes setting so as to encode the partial region of the image data with the high image quality in accordance with a user's instruction for designating an object displayed on a display screen.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein said image encoding setting step includes making the ROI setting in accordance with the user's instruction, and wherein said image encoding step includes executing the ROI encoding.

19. (Original) A storage medium storing a program executable by a data processing apparatus, said program including program codes for realizing an image processing method described in claim 10.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said integration unit selects encoded audio data having higher quality by comparing (a) audio quality of the encoded audio data encoded by said first audio encoding unit and (b) audio quality of the encoded audio data encoded by said second audio encoding unit, and integrates the selected encoded audio data with the encoded image data.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein said data integration step includes selecting encoded audio data having higher quality by comparing (a) audio quality of the encoded audio data encoded in said first audio encoding step and (b) audio quality of the encoded audio data encoded in said second audio encoding step, and integrating the selected encoded audio data with the encoded image data.